

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1 line 25 with the following:

Sources of corrosive gases and organic vapors may be found in the environment external to the drive, for example in a situation where the drive supports a control ~~processors processor~~ controlling chemical processing operations, or they may originate from materials used in the construction of the drive, such as gaskets, seals or adhesives. An out-gassing over time of volatiles from seals, gaskets or adhesives is typically a relatively slow process; however the aggregate accumulation of the out-gassing material may cause stiction between the head and disc, or promoting growth of asperities on the disc.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5 line 24 with the following:

FIG. 3 shows a breather diffusion path 154 ~~formed therein~~ formed in the base 150. In a preferred embodiment of the DSD 100, the breather diffusion path 154 communicates with a diffusion aperture 156 at a proximal end of the breather diffusion path 154 and the breather aperture 140 (of FIG. 1) at a distal end of the breather diffusion path 154. Collectively, the breather aperture 140, the breather diffusion path 154 and the diffusion aperture 156 permit passage between the environment external to the head-disc assembly 106 (of FIG. 1) and the environment confined within the head-disc assembly 106.